

“WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?” Part 2

I Corinthians 2:9-12

“But as it is written: “ Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

A children’s catechism class was learning the Apostles Creed. Each child had been assigned a sentence to memorize and repeat. The day for the examination arrived and the first child said, “I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.” The second child said, “I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary” When he had completed his sentence, there was an embarrassing silence. Finally, one child spoke up, “Teacher, the boy who believes in the Holy Spirit isn’t here today.”

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit? What do you believe? Upon what do you base your belief? In our last study we saw that there is much confusion about the third Person of the Holy Trinity. We reviewed scriptures that teach us that the Holy Spirit , although called “Spirit” is a Person, just as God the Father and God the Son being “Spirit” are Persons. “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4:24)

His Personhood is seen in that: personal pronouns are used in reference to Him. (more than a dozen in John chapter 16 alone); activities performed by persons are attributed to Him: He speaks, He gives gifts, He prays etc. Furthermore we saw that He is a divine Person. His divinity is revealed by: divine associations and by direct affirmations of scripture.

We continue in this study to emphasize the divine nature of the Holy Spirit by citing additional scriptural proofs that He is indeed, not only a Person, but He is God with whom we can have a relationship and to Whom we are responsible.

Among the evidences that the Holy Spirit is God, are the following:

THE ATTRIBUTES THAT HE PORTRAYS

Why is the Spirit “Holy”? The noun “attribute” means, “A quality or characteristic of a person.” The verb form means to attribute certain qualities or characteristics to another. Consider first, the divine characteristics, or credentials, presented throughout the Bible assuring us that the Holy Spirit is God:

He is eternal.

Hebrews 9:14, “How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the Eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the liv-

ing God?” Only God is eternal. The Holy Spirit is presented in this verse as the Eternal Spirit. That is, He is God.

He is Omnipresent.

Psalm 139:7-10, “Where shall I go from Thy Spirit? or where shall I flee from Thy presence?” “Omnipresence” means that the Holy Spirit is present everywhere. Only God is present everywhere. The devil does not possess this attribute. His demons are scattered everywhere but the devil himself is not personally everywhere.

He is Omnipotent. In Luke 1:35 “And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” ”Omnipotence” means all-powerful. “The power of the Highest” is the Holy Spirit. His all-powerfulness is evidence that He is God.

He is Omniscient.

I Corinthians 2:9-12 - “But as it is written: “ Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.”

“Omniscience” means having all wisdom. The Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of wisdom and understanding” – here is the complete statement: “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” (Isaiah 11:2) This verse exudes omniscience! Only God is all-wise; the Holy Spirit is God!

The Holy Spirit possesses the four distinctly divine attributes: eternity, omnipresence, omnipotence and omniscience. These are unique attributes of God alone.

ILLUST. I was teaching this truth and a member of the class said afterward, “I did not know that about the Holy Spirit and that bothers me. I did not know that it was He Who is living in me.” I replied, “It should bother us to the point of humbling us and causing us to yield ourselves more fully to Him.”

Consider other evidences that He is God by concentrating upon:

THE ACTIONS THAT HE PERFORMS

The Holy Spirit performs distinctively divine works. Scriptures confirm that:

He Is Active In Creation.

In Genesis 1:1,2 & 7 - “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God

was hovering over the face of the waters..... And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Job recognized that the Holy Spirit was the agent of that life. He said, “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.” (Job 33:4)

The psalmist acknowledged the creative acts of the Holy Spirit in Psalm 104:25 & 30 - “This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great You send forth Your Spirit, they are created.”

These and other scriptures acknowledge the creative activities of the Holy Spirit showing that He is indeed God.

He Is Active In Regeneration.

John 3:4-8 – “Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

This classic conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus is used more often to underscore the necessity of the new birth: “You must be born again.” However, it is also a strong confirmation of the divinity of the Holy Spirit Who is the Agent of the new birth.

He Is Active In The Incarnation.

Matthew 1:18 - “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

In this most mysterious invasion of earth by the Lord Jesus, coming as an embryo formed in the womb of the Virgin Mary, the Holy Spirit is seen as activating the process. None but God could have and would have performed such a wonder!

He Is Active In Resurrection.

Romans 8:11 - “If the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you.”

Here again, in a most dramatic display of divine power, we see the Holy Spirit operative in raising from the dead the crucified and buried Savior! *And*, we have the promise that He, the Holy Spirit will raise believers bodies from the grave. How can He do that? Because He is God!

He Is Active In Inspiration.

II Peter 1:19-21 – “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

The book that we have with the words, *Holy Bible*, inscribed on the cover, is indeed the Holy Bible because its Author, the Holy Spirit, is divine.

We have seen that the Holy Spirit exercises divine activity in creation, regeneration, incarnation, resurrection and inspiration to mention some of His activities in which He is involved. How can anyone, therefore, successfully deny that He is God?

THE APPELLATIONS THAT HE POSSESSES

Although the Holy Spirit's attributes and His activities clearly demonstrate that He is God, the plainest proofs that one can give of His divinity, I suppose, are the names which He possesses – the appellations ascribed to Him. Some of them are:

- the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13);
- the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13);
- the Spirit of God (1 Cor. 3:16);
- the Spirit of Jehovah (Isaiah 11:2);
- the Spirit of the Lord Jehovah (Isaiah 61:1-3);
- the Spirit of the living God (2 Cor. 3:6);
- the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9);
- the Spirit of Jesus (Acts 16:6,7);
- the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:19);
- the Spirit of his Son (Galatians 4:6);
- the Spirit of holiness (Romans 1:4);
- the Spirit of truth (John 14:17);
- the Spirit of wisdom & understanding (Isaiah 11:2);
- the Spirit of the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2);
- the Spirit of life (Romans 8:2);
- the Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29);
- the Spirit of glory (1 Peter 4:14);
- the eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14).

When we survey the names given to the Spirit in Scripture, we get a clear sense of His divine nature. Don't you want to know Him better? We can and it is my desire that as a result of these messages we will get to know Him better.

CONCLUSION

What is our response to these truths? There are basically two alternatives:

- *We can give mental assent to the divinity of the Holy Spirit* and yet live our lives in our own

energy ignoring the Heavenly Guest Who lives within us as twice-born ones. Many do that either out of ignorance or as an act of willfulness. Paul writes to such, “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.” (I Corinthians 3:16-17)

When we ignore Him, the Holy Spirit is grieved. (Eph.4:30) I believe this is the most common sin that a born-again person commits – just ignoring the Heavenly Guest who resides in us and whose Temple we are.

- *We can be pro-active regarding the Holy Spirit* by recognizing Him as the third Person of the triune God-head, Who is the Resident Owner of the Temple of our bodies, yielding to His right to our lives by ceasing to trespass on His territory!

The truths about the Holy Spirit must not only be knowledge that we know in our heads but knowledge that impacts our lives. Knowing that it is God who lives in His born-again ones in the person of the Holy Spirit is an awesome truth with great and grave ramifications. That is why we must know beyond any doubt that when we are dealing with the Holy Spirit, we are dealing with God.

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